FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

The National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne concluded by issuing a unanimous final statement reaffirming the cease-fire decision and calling for the formation of a constituent committee to draft a future constitution for Lebanon. The committee will submit a report within 6 months and its 32 members will be chosen by President Amin al-Jumayyil in cooperation with the members of the National Dialogue Conference. The statement, broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio, also called for a halt to all information campaigns and said the dialogue body will hold further consultations at the invitation of the president. As for the cease-fire, the conferees agreed to draw up a security plan based on separating the combatant forces, withdrawing heavy weapons, returning the Army to its barracks, and entrusting responsibility for security to the Internal Security Forces, which will be expanded with conscripts and Army reservists. A higher military and political committee under President al-Jumayyil will be established to implement the security plan.

Although the final statement did not mention the formation of a new government, sources close to the Lebanese Front cited by AFP disclosed that the conferees recommended forming a national unity government. Nevertheless, there was no indication that agreement was reached on the composition of such a government, AFP said, and the "grim" faces of the departing delegates confirmed that the conference had made less progress than hoped. The final session of the conference followed intensive efforts to avert collapse as the negotiations reached deadlock and several participants threatened to leave, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon and MENA. Blaming former President Sulayman Franjiyah for the conference's failure to reach agreement over constitutional changes, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt said it was "a miserable day" for Lebanon and would lead to "thousands of new victims," KUNA reported. Junblatt also said he would prefer to negotiate in the future with the Christian military leaders — The Lebanese Forces Command — rather than with the two Lebanese Front leaders, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Junblatt's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio subsequently blamed President al-Jumayyil for the conference's failure to agree on constitutional reforms.

Meanwhile, in a press interview reported by Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon, former President Franjiyah confirmed his view that the role of the National Salvation Front (NSF) has finished, though he said this does not mean that he has joined the Lebanese Front with which he still disagrees on fundamental issues. Contending that his opposition to changing the presidential powers is not based on sectarianism but is for the sake of Lebanon's unity, Franjiyah accused his former NSF allies of reneging on an agreement to promote political reform through the existing Constitution.

In Beirut, the security situation was relatively calm on 21 March despite intermittent gunfire in several areas, Beirut radio reported. Three people were killed and 10 others were injured in shelling and sniping on 20 March, according to AFP. Beirut radio also noted "indications" of an imminent IDF withdrawal from Sidon to the Az-Zahrani River area, and Voice of Lebanon radio announced that a "senior Israeli figure" arrived in the Al-Awwali region early on 21 March.

Israel

The Knesset will discuss proposals to hold early elections in a plenary session on 22 March, IDF Radio reported. Leaders of the Likud coalition decided to establish a committee to fix a date for elections, Jerusalem radio said, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is expected to support holding them at the beginning of September. After meeting with Shamir, TAMI faction leader Aharon Abu-Hatzera confirmed that the prime minister had rejected TAMI's proposal for elections within 45 days, but added that it was decided to hold further talks on the subject. In his remarks, which were broadcast by IDF Radio, Abu-Hatzera also denied reports that his faction's demand for early elections was in response to the Finance Ministry's refusal to guarantee loans to a Swiss millionaire closely connected with TAMI. Meanwhile, another TAMI leader warned that if the ruling coalition prevents elections from being held shortly, TAMI will consider submitting a no-confidence motion against the government, Jerusalem radio reported. As for the opposition Alignment, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres indicated that he will make negotiations with Jordan a main issue in the election campaign, asserting in remarks broadcast by the radio that such negotiations should be unconditional and would not have to be based on the Camp David accords.

Egypt-Libya-Sudan

The AWACS planes received from the United States will "mainly overfly Egyptian territory," Egyptian President Husni Mubarak announced in remarks cited by MENA. It has not yet been decided whether these planes also will overfly Sudanese territory, the president added. Regarding Libyan military activities in the border areas, Mubarak emphasized that Egypt is "vigilant" and ready for any contingency. Under no circumstances would Egypt allow any border violations, he affirmed. When asked if a similar response could also be applied to further provocations against Sudan, Mubarak replied that "this applies to both areas." Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, in an interview reported by ANSA, likewise issued a "severe warning" to Libya to stop "meddling in Sudanese affairs." For every action, one must have the "necessary and militarily proportional deterrent," he added. JANA, however, described Mubarak's statement on the mission of the AWACS as part of a "barefaced formula" in the Egyptian-American "treacherous decision to launch aggression" against Libya.

Meanwhile, a Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau source cited by JANA said that his country had "no knowledge" of a U.S. memorandum concerning the air raid against Sudan. Libya nevertheless rejects "in form and content" the "provocative warnings" issued through the U.S. State Department spokesman, the source added.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi MIG-23 was shot down over the Hoveyzeh region by Iranian forces on 20 March, the Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio reported. Exchanges of fire continued in other operational sectors with Iranian troops maintaining "fire superiority" in the southern fronts, the communique added. The Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio on 20 March likewise reported sporadic fighting along the war fronts. Iraqi helicopter gunships carried out "daring and successful" attacks against Iranian positions east of Basra and east of the Tigris, inflicting "heavy losses" including the destruction of four troop concentrations.

Kuwait

A number of new naval units soon will join the Kuwaiti Navy in order to "protect the country's territorial waters," the defense minister announced in a statement cited by KUNA. The minister noted that forms ascertaining the technical, medical, and engineering capabilities available in the event of a total mobilization of the country "in service of the war effort and emergencies" recently were distributed to workers in the private and public sectors by the Ministry of Defense.

Arab-U.S. Relations

"Repercussions" from the fact that relations between the United States and countries in the Middle East currently are "built solely around Israel and take no account whatsoever" of the Arab populations are continually getting worse, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi wrote in an open letter to the U.S. President, reported by *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*. While expressing "deep concern" over threats to the positive links between the United States and the Arab nations, he warned against any further deterioration in these relations.

Jordan

Recent remarks concerning the U.S. political situation were "not meant to be interpreted as an attack meaning an end to the road vis-a-vis the Arab-U.S. dialogue," King Husayn stated in a BBC interview reported by Amman television. It was simply an account of the "real situation as I see it" in view of the degree of influence attained by Israel and the Jewish lobby in the United States. U.S. credibility has reached "its worse state" with regard to the Arabs due largely to the U.S. Administration's "impotence" to stand and defend its proposals in the face of "Zionist influence," the king reiterated. The Middle East situation has been aggravated because "nobody is ready to enter into negotiations with the United States as long as it is biased toward Israel," the king added in a statement cited by Radio Monte Carlo.

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Karmal Addresses PDPA Meeting 17 March
LD201558 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held yesterday, chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The session thoroughly discussed and assessed a comprehensive plan for the consolida'on of state power in localities.

The comprehensive plan includes political, social, economic, and cultural (?measures) which are being implemented in the country's provinces and regions. In accordance with the plan, all party and government organs in the provinces, districts, and subdistricts are assigned the mission of implementing the draft measures in connection with the creation of organizational cells, organizational and political work among the people, the tasks laid down by the party and state in the regions, the performance of social and economic work in the interest of the people, particularly in the area of social security, the repair and reconstruction of public establishments, schools, health centers, bridges, water supply, and so forth.

In a resolution, the Politburo specified the tasks of zonal and provincial headquarters to implement the complex plan. The politburo session thoroughly discussed and assessed the results of the implementation of the state plan and budget during 1362 [1983], the draft plan for the DRA's socioeconomic growth and the state budget for 1363. Several reports were heard in the session in this regard. The draft plan and state budget for 1363 submitted by the Council of Ministers was approved. Specific duties were assigned for the implementation to the Council of Ministers, the State Planning Committee, the Ministry of Finance, and the party committees and social organizations.

Addressing the session, Babrak Karmal said: The assessment shows that despite the economic banditry of the counterrevolutionaries, the country's economic situation in 1362 enjoyed relative stability, and the state plan and budget for 1363 has been drafted completely realistically.

In referring to weak aspects of work, shortcomings, deficiencies in the implementation of the plan and enforcement of the government budget in 1362, Babrak Karmal said: The State Planning Committee, the Ministry of Finance, other ministries and departments, party committees, and social organizations should pay responsible attention to the task of immediately removing shortcomings and undeviated implementation of the instructions of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo on the 1362 plan and government budget.

He further said: Maximum and effective utilization should be made in particular of textile mills. Intensive measures should be taken for the restoration of destroyed enterprises. The process of commencing production in new enterprises should be hastened. Care should be taken to pay serious attention to productive enterprises which strengthen the national economy and ease public needs.

The State Planning Committee, in consultation with the Ministries of Commerce and Mines and Industries and the Economic Council,should take specific measures to increase factory output and reactivate idle enterprises in the private sector. Moreover, efforts should be made to attract the cooperation of entrepreneurs and national traders in the party and government economic plans to better organize investment in industry and trade. Effective measures should be taken to increase the country's foreign currency reserves.

Serious efforts should be made to review major price indices in harmony with the people's buying power and the government's economic ability. A proper system to fix prices and their subsequent control should be created. Harmful fluctuations should come under the supervision and serious control of the government. The principle of economizing should be seriously observed and specific measures should be taken towardfinancial discipline and fulfullment and overfulfillment of the government's income plan.

In his assessment of the government plan and budget for 1363, Babrak Karmal concluded: The objectives of the plan for the restoration of economic order and further stability in the country's economy to enhance the socioeconomic standard of living of the toiling masses should be implemented in practice by using all power and possibilities together with the observation of reasonable economies in the government's regular and development budget. The role of government planning should be enhanced by strengthening planning discipline and responsible behavior of ministries and departments implementing the plan.

Babrak Karmal's instructions for the country's socioeconomic plans are being kept in mind and will be utilized in the process of implementing the government's planned budget for 1363.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo also approved the establishment of the Ministry of Light Industry and Foodstuff and the General Department of Civil Aviation under the DRA Council of Ministers.

The Ministry of Light Industry and Foodstuff is being formed to improve the activities of light industry and foodstuff enterprises and to increase the production of foodstuff and consumer goods. The General Department of Civil Aviation under the Council of Ministers is being formed to improve air transport and better organize the use of planes, aviation techniques, and new airports. The approval of the two new organizations is in line with gradual and reasonable reforms in government administraiton and improving government work without increasing expenses.

AFP: Rebels Hit Convoys, Await Panjshir Offensive
OW202132 Hong Kong AFP in English 2008 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Islamabad, March 20 (AFP) — Afghan opposition fighters have this month destroyed some 75 Kabul-bound Soviet supply trucks, causing sharp fuel and food shortages in the Afghan capital, Western diplomatic sources here said today.

Quoting telegrams from Kabul, the sources said the convoys were ambushed between March 8 and 14 by guerrillas under the command of Ahmad Shah Masud, the Panjshir valley resistance leader.

Mr Masud said in a letter received here today that he had ordered the Mujahedeen in the region to attack convoys coming over the Salang Mountain Pass for the purpose of slowing a broad scale Soviet offensive in the valley north of Kabul. The letter had been written five days earlier.

The sources said some 50 trucks were destroyed on March 8 on the north slope of the pass, and 25 on the south slope on March 13 and 14.

They said several more Soviet convoys had turned back.

As a result of the economic blockade, most gasoline service stations in Kabul have closed for lack of supplies, and the few remaining open are under strict rationing and heavily guarded by the army, the sources said.

In addition, flour and sugar are in short supply, both in Kabul and in Kandahar to the southwest, a city also largely dependent on Soviet supply trucks.

The Soviets have stepped up military patrols, but even helicopters have proven ineffective in defending the steep, snow-covered sections of the pass flanking the Salang tunnel, where convoys fall easy prey to close-range rocket and artillery fire.

In his letter, Mr Masud said he expected the new Soviet offensive in the Panjshir — the seventh in four years — towards the end of March. He said reconnaissance planes had begun passes over the valley, and that the non-combatant population had been evacuated.

A reliable Western source here said Mr Masud was not in the valley, but in hiding with his lieutenants in the sorrounding mountains, preparing harassment actions once Soviet troops make their move.

Security Forces Arrest Rebels in Provinces

Ghowr, Faryab

LD171512 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] A group of counterrevolutionaries who were disrupting the peaceful life of the people of (Aqchkana) village, Ghowr Province, were destroyed recently by the security forces of this province; 20 were arrested.

A spokesman of the security forces in Ghowr Province said a number of weapons and propaganda leaflets proving links with counterrevolutionary bands abroad were seized by the security forces from these murderers.

According to another report, a group of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed in [name indistinct] District, Faryab Province, by the security forces.

Lowgar Province

LD171836 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1617 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] In a successful operation in (Dasht-e Khair-e Shra), capital of Lowgar Province, vigilant Lowgar Province security forces recently crushed a 60-man group of counterrevolutionaries, including their ringleader, 'Anayatulah, who entered the country from abroad with a caravan of weapons.

A security source of this province said that in these operations, in addition to a large number of various American and Chinese weapons, more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition and 3 antitank mines were seized.

Sikh Student Organization 'Activists' Arrested

BK210309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] In Punjab, a number of activists of the All-India Sikh Students Federation have been arrested. This follows the declaration of the organization as unlawful by the government.

Port, Dock Workers Strike Enters 5th Day

BK201625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Loading and unloading operations at the major ports continued to be affected by the port and dock workers strike now in its 5th day. About 10 ships are lying idle at the Bombay dock and another 30 standing in the Bombay harbor.

The number of ships waiting at Sandheads at Calcutta and Haldia ports has increased to 19 with the arrival of 3 more vessels today.

An oil tanker carrying 83,000 tons of crude was brought into Madras port with the help of the Navy. A spokesman of the port said that the tanker has started the pumping out operation. He said the situation remained unchange with 15 vessels waiting outside the port.

The percentage of attendance at Cochin port continues to be thin. According to port authorities the situation is peaceful. With two more ships arriving in the outer harbor today, the number of ships ready for entry into the port has gone up to 12.

Essential services staff reported for duty from the second shift yesterday at Mormugao port. This follows the agreement to exempt certain important categories from the purview of the strike.

According to informed sources, striking workers are losing about 60 to 65 lakh rupees a day in wages. The loss to shipowners because of the stranded ships is around 1.5 crore rupees a day.

The president of the All-India Port and Dock Workers Federation, Mr S.R. Kulkarni, alleged that the government has taken a rigid attitude toward the demands of the workers. He told newsmen in Bombay that the federation will not agree to the 15 percent rise in the wage bill offered by the government.

3 'Insurgents' Killed in Ciash in South Mizoram

BK210849 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] According to a delayed report, three insurgents were killed in southern Mizoram in an exchange of fire between the security forces and the outlawed Mizo National Front men. The insurgents were trying to cross over to India from across the border. Some arms and ammunition were also seized from them.

Defense Ministry Annual Report Cited

BK201655 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The Defense Ministry has expressed concern at the induction of some sophisticated weapons into Pakistan. In its annual report the ministry said this constitutes a new phase as these are (?patently) offensive systems unmatched in the region. It says that sending arms into a troubled area where the leadership does not have a strong democratic base can be a cause of instability, and it poses a threat to the peace in the region.

The report underlines India's efforts to create a climate of peace and its attempt to improve relations with neighbors. However, the government has been taking proper measures to maintain full defense preparedness.

In a reference to the world situation, the report expresses concern at the great power rivalry, the arms race, and the increasing military expenditures of big powers. It expresses dismay at the use of force by one state against another to install regimes of a particular pursuasion or to destabilize regimes considered inconvenient.

Speaking with plan [as heard], the report says that the 1985-90 multi-army plan has been formulated to coincide with the national seventh 5-year plan. A prospective plan to cover the period from 1985 to 2010 is also under preparation. The modernization of artillery is being taken up to increase its firepower. Modern medium guns which will enable the government to deliver heavier cells at longer ranges will be introduced shortly. Modernization of the naval dockyards at Bombay and Visakhapatnam is progressing well, and facilities at the base repair organizations at Cochin and Port Blair are also being increased.

In the Air Force, modernization of aircraft and replacement of obsolete planes is under way. It has been decided to induct MIG-27's into service, the report said.

Increase in Ordnance Production

BK210406 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The ordnance factories have increased their production from 787 crore rupees during 1981-82 to 869 crores in 1982-83. This accounts for a rise in production by more than 10 percent. In its annual report, the Defense Ministry says that the nine public sector undertakings in the defense sector registered an increase of about 15 percent in the total capital investment. It rose to 530.50 crore rupees in 1981-82 to 610.28 crores at the end of March 1983. The estimates for the current year are 711.31 crore rupees. The production is further expected go up during 1983-84.

The report further says that the defense supplies department has indigenously built a number of vital equipment. The major achievement during 1983 has been the completion of the first prototype of the main battle tank NBT.

Zia on Afghanistan, Palestine, India, Islam
GF171744 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Mar 84 p 3

[Interview with President Ziaul Haq by Nasir ad-Din an-Nashashibi in Brunei — no date given]

[Text] Tomorrow it will be Pakistan's turn. This is what the experts in Tokyo, New Delhi, and Manila have been saying following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. General Walker, the former NATO intelligence chief, has drawn up a report entitled "Pakistan in the Next Domino Piece," in which he asserts that in the next 2 years, India will attack Pakistan with Soviet help to reunify the Indian subcontinent and impose the socialist system on the 600 million [as published] people of both India and Pakistan.

Pakistan, a Muslim country, is the constant target of Jewish lobbies throughout the world on the pretext that Pakistan is preparing to manufacture a nuclear bomb that would be a threat to Israel. The United States is hostile to Pakistan and sets impossible conditions for U.S. aid to Pakistan — while the magnitude of such aid is a disgrace to any ruler or official. At the same time, fraternal Muslim countries are withholding financial support to Pakistan and exposing it to the threat of coups and to violent currents. The domestic political situation in Pakistan is inflammable and is liable to blow up at any time for many reasons.

When the Pakistani president came to Brunei last week to congratulate its young Muslim sultan on his cowntry's independence, I saw him sitting next to Prince Charles, the prince of Wales, during a dinner surrounded by Asia's leaders and senior statesmen, and I said to myself I must see him. A date was fixed and I was scheduled to meet the Pakistani president on the evening of the following day at the palace where he was staying for 48 hours as the guest of the sultan of Brunei. When I went to see him he was praying. I waited in the lounge and thought about the first question I would be asking the Pakistani president.

When he finished praying, he entered the room smiling and walked toward me. I felt calm. The Pakistani president asked me: Why have you not visited us in Pakistan for 20 years?

I replied immediately: Since I can meet you in Brunei it's just as if I have visited Islamabad.

He said: No, I want you to come to Pakistan and visit Peshawar, the Khyber Pass, and the border area with Afghanistan and see for yourself the tension and volatile situation.

He paused and then asked me: Eh, when will you visit us?

I replied gratefully: With the end of spring, God willing.

I then asked him, as though beginning the interview: What's the situation like in the border area?

He replied: We have 3 million refugees in Baluchestan and Peshawar. We are spending on them not less than $1 million a day. One half of this sum comes from the Pakistani budget, while the other half is paid through international contributions. That is $500,000 a day, or $180 million a year — and this has been going on for 4 years now.

I asked: Isn't the United States contributing toward the expenses of the Afghan refugees?

He replied: The United States is contributing only through international organizations. He laughed briefly and then added: As usual, the United States is contributing behind-the-scenes.

He added with some astonishment: The Afghan fighters are fighting with their hands only. They do not have sufficient weapons because they lack funds. I can tell you a thousand heroic stories about the greatness and courage of these fighters and their heroism in resisting Soviet occupation. They are teaching the Soviets difficult and bloody lessons.

The president added: However, the world knows little of what is taking place in Afghanistan. We, and Muslims in particular, must make an effort to make all the facts known to the world so that the world will not forget this tragedy and so that we will not forgive the Soviets for their crime of invading Afghanistan.

I asked the Pakistani president: What in your view is the "practical" solution to the Afghanistan tragedy?

President Zia replied: There is only one practical solution, namely, a total Soviet withdrawal from all Afghanistan. I have no other solution. Likewise, the only solution to the Iraqi-Iranian war is to end the fighting — and I have no other solution.

I asked: Isn't it sufficient, for instance, to set up a neutral government in Afghanistan, which is not aligned to Moscow or communism?

He answered: "Governments" are of no importance when the Soviet Army continues to occupy the land and the country. No Afghan refugee will return to his homeland as long as the Soviets are occupying it. Therefore, there is no solution to the problem other than the withdrawal of the Soviet Army. It is the occupation forces alone that determine the government's policy. No new Afghan government can have any freedom as long as the Soviet Army is in Kabul.

He added: The Afghan is a fierce fighter who does not allow foreign occupiers of his country any rest or peace. The British failed to colonize Afghanistan because of the Afghan's fanatic attachment to his country and religion. The British tried three times to colonize Afghanistan and they failed every time. The Afghan is known for his love of freedom.

I asked the Pakistani president: Do you think that Moscow will agreee to withdraw its Army from Afghanistan?

Ziaul Haq replied: I do not think so, I do not think so. It is not a simple matter. He laughed and added: But we must not lose hope for their withdrawal. The world lives on hope. Some 117 UN members have adopted a clear-cut resolution calling for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. The whole world is com-

mitted to this resolution, at least from the standpoint of principles or from the humanitarian or psychological standpoint.

I said: However, the world has not done anything, just as the world -- despite all the international resolutions — has not done anything for the Palestinian cause.

Ziaul Haq replied at once: The Palestinian cause has become an old cause. The world has forgotten it. The world has shelved it. I hope that the fate of Afghanistan will not be the same as Palestine's.

He laughed briefly and then said to me: We must continue to remind the world of the Afghanistan tragedy. We must not lose it like we lost Palestine. We must not be content with crying.

I asked immediately: Does this mean that the Muslims have also lost the Jerusalem cause?

The Pakistani president replied: I have strong emotions about the Jerusalem issue. However, I say to you that our stand must be that we do not and cannot throw Israel into the sea! We as Muslims must cooperate and plan to achieve a "practical" solution! I believe that Israel will stay and we must somehow accept this idea. As long as we are incapable of retrieving all of Palestine, we must be content with part of Palestine, and this part should be the Palestinian homeland for all Palestinians, while recognizing everyone's right to self-determination.

I repeated: I am asking you about Jerusalem?

He answered: Jerusalem is an issue that is of importance to all religions. It is important to Christians, Muslims, and also Jews. We must look for a solution in the light of this fact. If does not belong to one nation or one religion.

I said: I would like to hear more on this matter from his excellency the president of Pakistan!

He answered without losing his humor: And I do not care to add one more word to what I have said!

I asked Ziaul Haq: What about India? Does the Indian threat to Pakistan still exist?

He replied: Yes, this threat still exists. However, we are trying to migitate or eliminate it through peace. We want peace with India but India's response to our peace efforts toward it are not "as we wish them to be." We are seeking peace with India. Compared to India, we are a "small" country. We are not more than 85 million against 600 million Indians. There is no place here for comparison or competition. We want India to be our good neighbor and our friend. At the same time, we want to live with India honorably.

I interrupted him: This is your stand. I asked you about India's attitude toward you.

Ziaul Haq replied somewhat sadly: There are more than 18 Indian divisions on our border. This is too many. But I must say that Pakistan is not and will not be a threat to India and India should cooperate with us and find a way to live with us as a neighbor in peace and stability. It is one party that constitutes a threat to the other; it is India which is a threat to us and not the other way around. India should acknowledge that Pakistan has the right to exist. If France is able to live with Germany and display a good neighborly attitude toward it, why shouldn't Pakistan and India do the same?

Have relations improved?

He replied: I hope so. Their response to our calls are not as we wished them to be. The issue does not end with India, there are the Soviets as well. As you know, relations between the Soviets and India are very close. We hope that it is not a "tactic" or a conspiracy to pressure Pakistan into agreeing to a settlement of the Afghanistan crisis.

Ziaul Haq was silent and deep in thought until I asked him: What is the real issue regarding the international outcry on Pakistan's manufacture of a nuclear bomb?

He replied promptly: The whole story is a lie. It is a joke, a myth. He then added: We cannot manufacture a nuclear bomb nor do we want to do so.

I asked him: But they say they can prove your intention to manufacture such a weapon, what is your reply?

The Pakistani president replied sharply: No one can provide one shred of proof that we are manufacturing a nuclear bomb. He then said laughingly: They are saying a laughable thing that we actually possess such a weapon. But proof is lacking. Do you know why they are spreading rumors and lies about us? Because Pakistan is the "biggest" country to "export" Islam in the world and it is the greatest "experience" of Islam in the world. If Muslim Pakistan possesses a nuclear bomb, they will say Pakistan will give it to Yasir 'Arafat and will demand that Yasir 'Arafat use it against Israel.

Ziaul Haq laughed for a long time and did not stop until I heard him saying to me: We do not have any intention, plan, or policy on this matter.

I asked Ziaul Haq: But they also say that India actually possesses nuclear weapons. What is your comment?

The president replied: We believe India possesses such weapons, but there is still room for some doubt. Besides, the world believes that India possesses the bomb, that India will join the nuclear club sooner or later,and that India wants to become the "superpower" of the entire Indian subcontinent after it possesses this bomb. India's aspirations for control do exist and its ambitions continue. India knows that we know this, know its ambitions and aspirations.

I asked him a question as if I were trying to direct him to a delicate topic. I asked: What about your internal policy in Pakistan?

Ziaul Haq answered: I welcome any question by you on this matter.

I said: It seems difficult for a military man to accept talking about democratic or political rule or even to accept the presence of "opposition" in his country. What do you think about this?

"General" Ziaul Haq said: I am a frank man. I am a moderate and understanding man. Never have I tried to oppose the presence of any "opposition" in my country. There are some people in Pakistan who do not tell the truth about Pakistan. They charge me with instituting a dictatorial rule in Pakistan. This is not true. I rule my country through an elected constitutional government. The judiciary gave its opinion on the legitimacy of the "regime and the government" in Pakistan by approving it. The "judiciary" approved all my political steps. The Pakistan judiciary also gave me the right to undertake the necessary amendments in the Constitution in accordance with the needs of the homeland — and not in accordance with the concept of democracy in the West but in accordance with the correct spirit of Islamic democracy. I will restore the country to correct Islam both in letter and in spirit. There is a vast difference between democracy in the West and democracy in the Islamic concept. My efforts are centered on introducing into Pakistan the correct Islamic democratic teachings. That is why in March 1985 we will have elected councils on the local and national levels. Today, we have 85 million people and there are 30,000 villages and tens of thousands of cities. Elections will be held in the cities and villages in accordance with democratic principles and in stages. We will have functional parliamentary councils.

I then asked him, as if I were interrupting him: Why then have you had all this opposition with whom you found it difficult to reach an understanding? How do you explain the intensity of the animosity toward you in the ranks of the opposition?

Ziaul Haq pondered and said: Because our politicians are no different from politicians throughout the world. I say that a politician has to practice politics but he also has to comprehend politics through the spirit of Islam. Islam and the Koran gave us the right to rule and ordered them to obey. It says: "O you who believe, obey God and obey His messenger and those who are in authority among you." Will they listen? It says "and those who are in authority among you." This gives us the honor to rule and gives the people the honor to participate, provided that we all are sincere and honest. So we should not lie to the people and mislead them with promises and lies by claiming, for instance, that the sun rises from the West and that we can disperse huge sums of money to people and make them prosperous without them doing anything in return. These deeds do not serve the homeland. I am determined to fight them. These deeds have nothing to do with democracy. Serving the people cannot be attained through speeches, robbing the people, shouting slogans, and promoting friction.

What about your animosity toward Mrs Bhutto?

Haq: Internally, she has no weight and no influence! It is nothing. He added: She tries to portray herself to the world as a victim! But she has no weight or influence in Pakistan.

Ziaul Haq then resumed his smiling and silence.

Zia Remarks on Palestine 'Out of Context'

BK210129 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] A [Foreign Office] spokesman said Pakistan supports the restitution of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians, including their right of self-determination and establishment of a state of their own on Palestinian soil. He emphasized that there has been no change in Pakistan's traditional position of full support to the Palestinian cause.

He said remarks attributed to the president by a correspondent of the daily *AL-ANBA'* of Kuwait has been clearly drawn out of context and were misleading. In fact, while the president was in Brunei last month for the independence celebrations of that country, he did not give any formal interview to the Kuwaiti daily, whose correspondent has apparently based his reports on some remarks exchanged during a (?chance) meeting. He said as is well known Pakistan has been in the forefront in the espousal of the Palestinian cause. It demands Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Al-Quds and supports the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The spokesman said in terms of peace initiatives and UN resolutions, Pakistan has supported the Fes plan put forward by the Arab countries as well as Security Council Resolution No 242 of 1967.

Generals Call on President Zia 20 March

BK201529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq at the chief martial law administrator's secretariat in Rawalpindi today. Later, the vice chief of Army Staff, General Sawar Khan, also called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Aircraft Strays Into India; Regrets Conveyed

BK201726 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] A Cessna training aircraft of the Rawalpindi flying club on a training flight to Lahore this afternoon strayed across the Pakistan-India border. Immediately upon noting the navigational error, the pilot and the instructor — both civilians — returned to Lahore. The Pakistan Government has conveyed its

regrets to the Government of India for this unintentional violation of the Indian airspace and has instituted an inquiry into the matter.

Spokesman Expresses Concern Over Gulf War

GF171657 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, March 13: A Foreign Office spokesman said today that the Government of Pakistan viewed with serious concern the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war and the scope of superpower involvement.

Asked for comments on the present situation of the war, he said the Government of Pakistan had consistently held the view that this was the most regrettable war and must be brought to an end.

The president of Pakistan, he recalled, had offered his good offices to try to bring it to an end, if the two sides desired it. That offer was still there, he added.

He said the Pakistan Government also regretted the bombing of civilian targets, and strongly felt that it should be stopped.

APP adds: The spokesman said Pakistan's position on the use of chemical weapons was in consonance with the 1925 international convention which prohibited the use of such weapons.

In the context of allegations that Iraq has lately deployed chemical weapons in the Gulf war, the spokesman said Pakistan would oppose the violation of the provisions of the 1925 convention from any side.

Pointing to the attempts of a UN team to inquire into the allegations, the spokesman said that Pakistan would await the findings of this team.

As regards the war itself, the spokesman said Pakistan continued to maintain its neutral stance in the whole conflict. However, it would now take an initiative to end this most regrettable conflict only after both the parties agreed. "We will move when the parties ask us," he said, adding that "we can't force a mediation on any party."

He recalled that Pakistan had in the past played a very active role to being the Iran-Iraq war to an end, but its efforts did not bear fruit.

Politician on Supporting Iran, Condemning U.S.

GF201630 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Mar 84 p 1

[By staff reporter]

[Text] Islamabad, March 5: Qazi Hussain Ahmad, secretary general of the defunct Jamaat-e-Islami, has deplored the U.S. involvement in the Gulf war and said that if Iran is attacked by the United States the people of Pakistan will fully support their Iranian brothers.

Talking to pressmen after addressing party workers here today, the Jamaat leader said that Pakistan should not remain aloof from what is happening in its neighbourhood. "We condemned the Russians when they approached our borders and we should condemn the Americans now."

He said his party was concerned over the events in the Gulf region because any escalation of the war there could bring the super powers into direct confrontation. The Pakistan Government should take serious note of this situation and take all possible steps to prevent the situation from taking a catastrophic turn.

Jamaat-i-Islami Leader Asks Parties To Unite

GF191708 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Mar 84 p 10

[Text] Karachi, March 14: Prof. Ghafoor Ahmed, Naib amir of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami, has called upon the political parties to reach understanding in the bid to take the country out of the present crisis which he described as "worse in its dimensions."

The "minimum programme" for resolving the crisis, he said, included the holding of fair and impartial elections under the 1973 constitution, release of all detained political leaders and workers without pre-conditions, equal opportunities to all political parties in communicating with the people in any part of the country, and a free press.

About the prospects of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami joining the MRD Prof. Ghafoor Ahmed said: "Every sane political leader would consider a mutual understanding among the political parties as inevitable."

In the past also the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami had joined in the collective efforts as demanded by the situation prevailing at that time. "Nobody can dare deny that the present crisis is the worst and calls for common efforts again," he stressed.

The MRD, he said, was also an "understanding" reached between its constituents on the basis of the four-point declaration.

He expressed satisfaction at the outcome of his recent contacts with leaders of different political parties and said that significant headway had been achieved in bridging the gap among the parties which were poles apart until recently.

When pointed out that his party had previously taken a definite position on government's plans to hold polls this year, Prof. Ghafoor Ahmed said that all such issues would remain open for talks. "All the issues should be discussed with an open mind and heart. The common aim would remain to be the holding of fair elections."

The plan to have nominated members of the parliament or the selection of candidates by the government would make things worse, he said and feared that most of the moderate politicians would lose control and extremists would take over.

Piece-meal policy decisions were creating greater doubts in public mind, he said and urged the government to take the political parties into confidence to ensure fair elections.

He noted that the government had even ignored the recommendations of a committee of the Majlis-i-Shoora [Advisory Council] and the Ansari Commission and had ventured on a plan which had no relevance to the situation.

Any deviation from the pledge of July 5, 1977, would harm the solidarity and integrity of the country, he concluded.

NEPAL

PRC President Li Xiannian Arrives 19 Mar

BK191609 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] President of the People's Republic of China Li Xiannian and Madame Lin Jiamei were accorded a hearty, grand and friendly welcome on their arrival in Katmandu today for a 5-day state visit to Nepal at the invitation of their majesty the king and the queen. His majesty the king and her majesty the queen extended a hearty welcome to the distinguished guests at a special dais of the VIP lounge of the Tribhuvan International Airport. The national flags of Nepal and China fluttered at the airport on the occasion.

The Chinese president and the first lady were welcomed by the colorfully clad pancha kanyyas [girls] with garlands and bouquets. A guard of honor was presented by a contingent of the Royal Nepalese Army as his majesty the king and the Chinese president stepped on the special dais. The national anthems of both the countries were played to mark the occasion while a 21-gun salute boomed in the air.

Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, Chief Justice Nain Bahadur Khatri, Rashtriya Panchayat Chairman Mariech Man Singh, Raj Sabha Standing Committee Chairman Bhupalman Singh Karki, ministers, heads of the constitutional organs, the chiefs of the diplomatic missions, high ranking officials of his majesty's government and other distinguished persons were also present at the auspicious and friendly airport function.

After a brief and significant airport ceremony his majesty the king and the Chinese president and her majesty the queen and Madame Lin Jiamei proceeded toward the city hall. The Chinese guests were received warmly by students and thousands of people who were standing on the pavement along the 7-kilometer long carcade route from Tribhuvan International Airport to the city hall.

At the city hall the Chinese president, Li Xiannian, and Madame Lin signed the book of the City of Katmandu. The distinguished visitors were welcomed at the entrance of the city hall by Pradhan [chief] Pancha of Katmandu Town Panchayat (Kamal Chitrakar). Uppapradhan [deputy chief] Pancha (Kanchanmala Chalisey) and members of the town panchayat were also at hand to welcome the Chinese president and Madame Lin. Students gathered in front of the city hall burst into applause when the Chinese guests arrived at the hall and returned from there. At one stage the Chinese president and his wife joined the students in clapping to acknowledge the greetings.

President Li and Madame Lin were also lustily cheered by men and women gathered at the premises of the city hall as they proceeded to the Narayanhiti Royal Palace accompanied by their majesties the king and the queen. Auspicious welcome arches and streamers lauding world peace, international cooperation and Nepal-China friendship were lined along the route. Students, scouts and teachers from various educational institutions in the Katmandu valley and the officials of his majesty's government had also assembled to accord a welcome to the Chinese guests. President Li is accompanied by Vice Premier of the State Council Tian Jiyun, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Gong Dafei, Vice Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Zhang Tuobin and Vice Minister of Public Security Tao Siju.

Earlier, greeting the journalists present at the airport, the Chinese president said Nepal and China are good friendly countries.

In a statement upon arrival, President Li Xiannian said the purpose of his current visit to Nepal was to enhance understanding, learn and to promote friendship and strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

The Chinese president said: I am convinced that my purpose will be fulfilled.

Mr Li said that China and Nepal are friendly neighbors and there exists a long standing friendship between the two people. He said that in almost 30 years, since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Nepal have made very satisfactory progress in the political, economic, cultural and other fields.

The Chinese president said: I feel very happy that at the invitation of His Majesty King Birendra I have come to your beautiful country on a state visit bringing with me the Chinese people's profound sentiments for the Nepalese people.

The Chinese president flew into the capital this afternoon in a Boeing 707 aircraft from Istanbul direct.

Talks Begin

BK201517 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] His majesty the king and visiting Chinese President Li Xiannian held talks in a cordial atmosphere at the royal palace today. Bilateral, regional and international subjects figured in the talks that lasted for 2 hours. Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, Foreign Minister Padma Bahadur Khatri, Royal Nepalese Ambassador to China Guna Shumshere Rana and Royal Nepalese Consulate General to Lhasa (Tamla Oklab) also participated in the talks from the Nepalese side.

From the Chinese side Vice Premier of the State Council Tian Jiyun, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Gong Dafei, Vice Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Zheng Tuobin and Vice Minister of Public Security Tao Siju and Ambassador of China to Nepal Tu Guowei were present.

Their majesties the king and queen had tea with Chinese President Li Xiannian and Madame Lin Jiamei at the Narayanhiti royal palance this afternoon.

By command of their majesties the king and queen a banquet is being hosted this evening in honor of President Li Xiannian and Madame Lin Jiamei.

SRI LANKA

State of Emergency Extended; Ethnic Talks Adjourned

BK210319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] In Sri Lanka, President Jayewardene has extended the state of emergency until 17th of next month. According to official sources, police and troops have been given special powers to deal with communal violence. The emergency was imposed in May last year to curb violence after the parliamentary and local elections. The authorities have been extending it every month after the ethnic violence in July.

Meanwhile, the round table conference on the ethnic issue was adjourned yesterday until the 9th of May. The Tamil United Liberation Front and some other Tamil parties protested against such a long adjournment. A spokesman of the conference told newsmen in Colombo that the adjournment was suggested by the president. He said this is being done to enable further consultations. The only issue on which the conference has reached agreement so far is on conferring citizenship on about 93,000 stateless people of Indian origin.

Premadasa Urges Religious Leaders To Combat Drug Use

BK191210 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The rural population is continuously fraught with suspicion and fear because of the problem of terrorism and drug abuse. Antisocial elements are attempting to disrupt the government's development efforts. Prime Minister R. Premadasa, who made this disclosure, requested the mahasangha [Buddhist priests] and other religious leaders to go to the villages and advise the people how to avoid this danagerous situation.

The prime minister was speaking in Ja-ela yesterday after handing over the houses of the entire model village to the people. Mr Premadasa noted that to go there was a present need to explain to the people the dangerous effects of narcotics and of promoting acts of terrorism. He said that if the clergy took the message to the people, there would be a total change in the situation within 2 or 3 months.

'Terrorists' Robbery Attempt Foiled in Jaffna

BK201323 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] An attempt by about 15 terrorists to rob the cash from two vehicles belonging to the Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna, was foiled by the security guards in the vehicles this morning. According to the superintendent of police, Jaffna, two vehicles belonging to the Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna, carrying cash for delivery at the Point Petro and Chavaka Chcheri branches were returning to Jaffna after delivery.

At about 1030 at (Navatkoli) 15 youths all armed and in Army uniforms intercepted the vehicles and threw hand bombs in one of the vehicles. The youths had [words indistinct] fired. The security guards returned the fire and a shootout ensued. Within 10 minutes of the incident, a police party arrived at the scene. However, the youths (got away) in one of the vehicles in which they had come. No one was injured in the shootout.

Leaders Address Nation on Occasion of New Year

Ayatollah Khomeyni

LD201306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 84

[New year address by Ayatollah Khomeyni; date, place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I pray to God Almighty to make the New Year a blessed one for (?world Muslims), particularly for our dear nation, through the favor of the Lord of the Ages, peace be upon him, to whom this country belongs. Greetings on the occasion of the great victory of Islam over blasphemy, greetings on the occasion of the great jihad launched by our crusaders for Islam. May God make this day a blessed one for all. It is hoped that God Almighty, favoring us by his special care, will enable this nation to achieve greater victories, as it has already acheived certain victories.

I hope that Islam will hoist its flag over all Muslims throughout the world so that the hands of the oppressors will be cut off Islamic countries. May God enable this nation to work for His satisfaction. Of course, there are different interpretations put to Islam by differing views expressed by thinkers and by the various classes approaching it; there are, therefore, a great diversity of views. There is a very big difference between the interpretations of the learned and others.

Let all those in the East and the West say what they want; we are advancing along our own path and hope to reach the end of this path. (?Foreign powers), having become annoyed for having their hands cut off this country and being apprehensive of receiving the same treatment in connection with other countries as well, are engaged in hatching plots and will continue to do so. However, God Almighty will foil these plots.

May God enable everyone to realize and appreciate His blessing; may they realize that everything belongs to Him. If we realize that everything belongs to Him, then we will no longer be saddened by anything. The source of our discomfort and sadness stems from that fact that man considers these things as belonging to himself. When we are saddened at losing our dear ones it is because we consider them as belonging to us. If we consider everything and everyone as belonging to God, then these are the things God has given us and then takes away. Martyrs are loved by God. If we really understand this with our hearts, then the families who have given martyrs will consider that day as Id [festive day]. It would also be an Id for those who had been injured; it would be an id for those who had given their dear ones for the sake of God. For, after all, these dear ones are God's beloved, all belonging to Him. I do hope that this feeling and belief will emerge and be strengthened in all of us.

I also hope that Muslims will come to their senses. You noticed that although Saddam embarked on such an action and committed such oppressions, nevertheless, we were the ones who were condemned by them [as heard]. I hope that this year will be a blessed one for all the strata of the nation and all those living under the shadow of the Islamic Republic, including all the weak nations. God bless you all.

Ayatollah Montazeri

LD201448 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[New Year message by Ayatollah Montazeri; date, place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] Peace and God's greetings to God's prophet and the imam, peace by upon them, especially the Lord of the Ages, God speed his auspicious advent, the great leader of the revolution and all the committed and serving ulema, all Muslim combatants on the Iranian fronts and all Islamic countries, the dear martyrs, disabled, wounded, POW's, honorable families of the martyrs, the refugees of the imposed war, all servants of [word indistinct] and the country of whatever rank, all the people of Iran, all the Muslims of the world, all the deprived and oppressed nations.

It would have been (?apt) for me to congratulate all the brother and sister listeners on the occasion of the New Year, but East and West colonialists, Saddam and agents of colonialists in the region have left nothing to congratulate you for on the New Year. But, because it is being subjected to all the (?hardship), the Iranian nation has achieved so much maturity and spirit of self-sacrifice that in spite of all the shortages and problems the nation is facing, it sends its dear youths to the fronts, gives aid to the fronts, and takes part in events. This fundamental change that has occurred in the Iranian nation is truly admirable. I congratulate all the Iranian people who resisted in spite of all the problems, who are patient. They should know that they will be rewarded richly for their patience.

I should note a few things in this short message to our brother and sister listeners: The first is that, as a result of the revolution, a change has occurred in Iran. We must note that we have paid a high price for this revolution. So many youths have been martyred, wounded or disabled, so many of our cities have been ruined. We must beware that the high price we paid for the revolution is not misused, that the martyrs do not have to grieve. How lucky they are!

The second is that running the country is not just (?shouting slogans), there should be hard work and effort. An important point is that, as the great leader of the revolution has said, the war is our biggest issue. Therefore, the military commanders in charge of the war and the authorities should make the most of the people's interest in the battlefronts, the people's aid, their sending of their youths. They should sit down and prepare correct plans that lead to our victory. In short, they should take advantage of the nation's efforts and attention. War needs manpower, ammunition, and wisdom. There should be a corps comprising wise specialists, knowledgeable in warfare, who will sit down and make plans for the war. God willing, our combatants will inflict the final defeat on Saddam and the Ba'thist regime. As you know, the East and West colonialists are bent on defeating Islam in any way possible, that is why our responsibility is very grave.

Another point is the issue of the judiciary, which is one of the most important issues in the country. The Supreme Judicial Council should be more active in dealing with offenses. The prisons should be given more attention. Council officials should

give attention to (?the people in the middle). Those in prison are not all born criminals, most of them were deceived. They are like sick people who should be treated well and cured. We should not leave innocent children in the hands of leaders of groups [as heard] in prisons, and let them turn the prisons into classrooms to brainwash innocent children. As for their leaders abroad [words indistinct]. Here I should say something to the groups. As for their leaders, they are beyond hope, but the rest of them are deceived people who should return to the bosom of the revolution. Do they not know that their leaders are helping East and West imperialism and the criminal Saddam? They should know here and now that their leaders are criminals and traitors. These children have been deceived. I feel sorry for these children who followed Islam and the revolution. [as heard] Unfortunately, we were not able to get to them. Instead, the groups got to them and deceived them. They should repent and society will accept them.

Another issue is the election which is extremely important. As I have repeatedly said and the leader has also said, the fundamental issue for us is a free election. They should take care that no group or individual, whether clergy or otherwise, has the right to impose candidates on the society and to act as guardians. Of course, there is nothing wrong with guidance and propaganda, but it should not be done in such a way as to make the people feel that they are being forced.

May God bring success to us and to all brothers and sisters in serving Islam and the country. May God make this year an auspicious one for us. May God make the combatants of Islam victorious on the battlefronts in Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, and Afghanistan and everywhere else and rid the Muslims in the region of infidels, foreigners, Saddam, and agents of infidels in the region. May God give long life to the leader of the revolution and support servants of religion and the country. May peace and God's mercy be with you.

President Khamene'i

LD201117 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA — In a radio-television message to the Iranian nation on the occasion of the new year, President 'Ali Khamene'i today expressed hope that the coming year, 1362 (starting today) would be a "year of victory," also saying that "in this year, we anticipate victory in two fronts." He said the first victory will be in the battlefronts. "we strongly hope to achieve this victory by relying on the divine power and the will and determination of our nation." This, the president said, is the expectation of all the martyr-given parents and of all the brothers and sisters who have lost their dear ones. It further added that "it is also what our combatants in the warfronts expect, and God-willing we will fulfill this expectation."

The second victory, according to President Khamene'i, is in the front of foodstuff self-sufficiency including due attention to agricultural affairs and rural issues. He then delegated this task to the government officials and "all those who have an interest and record in agriculture." He also encouraged the farmers and foodstuff producers to launch a joint effort, with the backing of responsible organisations, in making the country self-sufficient in foodstuffs. The president expressed the hope that this objective too, will be accomplished through a precise and proper planning and an all-out effort.

Congratulating the whole nation, including the Muslims and non-Muslims on the occasion of Norooz (the new year), Khamene'i hoped that they will all enjoy a happy future. The past year, said he in the message, was full of adventures for the world people and a year of "valuable experiences" for the Iranian nation. For the oppressive powers of the world, he said, it was a year of concern and disturbance, since it was marked by traces of people's movements and the growth of liberation movements. At the same time, it was a year of industry and fruitful activity for the deprived nations and societies.

In the past year, the Iranian nation was faced with a wider scale invasion on the side of the big powers, either in economic, political, propaganda or military fields. In political and military arena, the president stressed, the Iranian nation achieved great victories. He said also that in economic and cultural fields too, useful and wide scale efforts were launched which "we hope they produce good results." [as received] In the past year, he said, the officials were able to take useful decisions for the nation and all in all it was a year of hard work.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,671

LD201743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,671 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] At 1045 this morning, an Iraqi MIG-23 was shot down over the Hoveyzeh region by the surface-to-air defense units and the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yesterday the combative units of Islam opened heavy weapons fire to disrupt the movements of Iraqi forces on the Al-Faw -Basra axis, destroying four enemy trenches west of the Arvand Rud and setting fire to an enemy excavator. They also killed or wounded a number of Iraqi servicemen.

On the other southern fronts, the forces of Islam enjoyed fire superiority. Exchanges of fire were more intense in the Zayd and Kushk regions.

Exchanges of fire also continued along defense lines in the northern and northwestern operational regions. On these fronts, our combatants opened fire on the enemy's artillery and mortar emplacements, trenches, foxholes, and supply routes and shelled some of the mercenaries' positions and fortifications.

Yesterday, as a result of the enemy's long-range weapons fire, 17 houses, 4 shops, and 1 school in the city of Abadan were damaged.

Velayati Describes Algerian, Romanian Visits

LD181021 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Our country's Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned to Tehran last night at the conclusion of his visits to Romania and Algeria. Mr Velayati discussed the outcome of his tour of Algeria and Romania in an interview with our correspondent:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our delegation's visits were at the invitations of the Romanian and Algerian foreign ministers, reciprocating their visits to Iran. In Algeria, our talks covered bilateral, regional, and international issues. As far as our bilateral relations are concerned, following the revolution, we have enjoyed expanding relations with Algeria in politics, economics, and culture. Of course, our cultural and economic relations are not as extensive as our political ties, and this was one of the issues thatwe reviewed with our Algerian counterpart. We hope, with increased visits between our officials dealing with trade, economics, and culture, to achieve acceptable growth in our relations.

Some issues came up in relation to the Algiers Declaration, basically, as a result of America's violations of the declaration and, furthermore, that certain arbitrations occasionally have not been just. In view of the Algerian role in that declaration as well as what we have come to believe from Algeria -- that it has always tried to see that the proceedings are based on justice — with the cooperation of our Algerian colleagues, we attended to these issues and have taken some steps, and we hope to achieve desirable results.

We met the president, the prime minister, the foreign minister, the science minister, the leader of the ruling party, and the chairman of the parliament, and we had useful rounds of talks with all of them. On international topics, we and Algeria, naturally, have deep understanding. We have many common views both at the Islamic conference and in the Nonaligned Movement. During our trip to Algeria, we created the foundation of greater bilateral cooperation on the international arena.

As far as our trip to Romania is concerned, I must say that the most important development in our ties with Romania has been expansion of our economic relations after the revolution. Romania is our first trading partner among East European countries and our annual volume of trade is around $1 billion. We have good cooperation with Romania in a number of industrial projects and trade exchanges, and both sides hope that this cooperation will continue to expand and increase. Our talks in Romania centered on such prospects and in view of Romania's relative independence on the international scene it is only natural to see that we have some close views.

[Correspondent's question indistinct]

[Velayati] We expected this. Those who in the region had encouraed Saddam to launch on attack on Iran were, in fact, initiators behind the invitation and the convention of the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Baghdad. Contrary to their expectation, Saddam's attack on Iran not only did not lead to weakening our regime but led to greater unity and solidarity among our nation against the aggressor who had attacked our territory and our revolution. The Arab progressive countries and their foreign ministers did not attend the Baghdad ministerial meeting and Iraq and its supporters did not achieve any appreciable outcome from that conference, with the exception of only one communique. We are certain that the Arab nations and the true and progressive Arab governments are aware of our just rights. Our brotherly relations with Muslim Arabs is an established fact and our war with Saddam is a just defense against an aggressor that, since it has come to power, has frequently betrayed the Arab nations and especially the Iraqi nation. Saddam's regime is imposed upon them despite the wishes of the people of Iraq. [end recording]

Meets With Khamene'i

LD181744 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA — Iran's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, today met President Khamene'i and handed over to him messages from the Romanian and Algerian presidents.

Dr. Velayati who returned last night from his tour of Romania and Algeria also presented the president with a report of his week-long visit and his talks with officials of the afore-said countries.

Also meeting with the president today was Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni, commander of the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who presented him with a report of the activities of the forces in various fields over the past year. Captain Hoseyni also announced the Navy's full combat readiness to carry out its duties in the Persian Gulf to the president who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council.